

REMARKS

Claims 24-26, 28-31, 33-43, 45-48 and 50-72 are pending, with claims 24, 29, 34, 38, 41, 46, 51, 55, 59, 64 and 69 being independent. Claims 34-40 and 51-72 have been withdrawn from consideration, leaving claims 24-26, 28-31, 33, 41-43, 45-48 and 50 under consideration, with claims 24, 29, 41 and 46 being independent. Claims 24, 29, 41 and 46 have been amended to include the subject matter of claims 27, 32, 44 and 49, which have been canceled. Claims 24, 29, 41 and 46 have been further amended to clarify that the conductive layer is electrically isolated from "both" (as opposed to "either") of the plurality of first conductive lines and the plurality of second conductive lines, as recited in claims 24 and 41, or "both" of the plurality of scanning lines and the plurality of signal lines, as recited in claims 29 and 46. Support for this further amendment may be found in the application at, for example, Figs. 7 and 8 and in the specification at page 15, lines 12-19 (which notes that the dummy wiring structure is insulated from the signal lines and the scanning lines); page 29, line 24 to page 30, line 2 (which notes that the dummy wirings 401 do not project from the region 107); and page 32, lines 4-11 (which notes that the dummy wirings are formed in a region that the wirings do not traverse). No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 24, 29, 41 and 46 were rejected as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Fujii (U.S. Patent No. 5,757,450); claims 25, 30, 42 and 47 have been rejected as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Fujii and Yang (U.S. Patent No. 5,429,962); claims 26, 31, 43 and 48 were rejected as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Fujii and Teramoto (U.S. Patent No. 5,508,532); claims 27, 32, 44 and 49 were rejected as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Fujii and Tanaka (U.S. Patent No 5,619,358); and claims 28, 33, 45 and 50 were rejected as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Fujii and further in view of Shimada (U.S. Patent No. 5,162,901).

Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection in view of the amendments to claims 24, 29, 41 and 46, and because neither AAPA, Fujii, Yang, Teramoto, Tanaka, Shimada nor any proper combination of these references describes or suggests an arrangement in which the conductive layer is electrically isolated from both the plurality of first

conductive lines and the plurality of second conductive lines, as recited in claims 24 and 41, or in which the conductive layer is electrically isolated from both the plurality of scanning lines and the plurality of signal lines, as recited in claims 29 and 46.

With respect to claims 27, 32, 44 and 49, the rejection indicates that Tanaka teaches that a conductive film (26) that is used to form a dummy electrode is isolated from conductive lines so as to prevent corrosion from invading into the electrodes. From this, the rejection argues that it would have been obvious to modify the combination of AAPA and Fujii to isolate the conductive film so as to prevent the erosion of electrodes. However, this argument ignores the fact that the rejection relies upon the inclined wirings 42-1 to 42-8 of Fujii as corresponding to the conductive layer and being formed from the same material as the display electrodes 40-1 to 40-8. To isolate the inclined wirings 42-1 to 42-8 from the display electrodes 40-1 to 40-8 would cause breaks in the electrical signal paths that are supposed to be provided by the inclined wirings 42-1 to 42-8, and would make the system resulting from combining AAPA and Fujii inoperable. As such, Tanaka would not have led one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combination of AAPA and Fujii in the manner set forth in the rejection.

For at least these reasons, the rejections should be withdrawn.

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicant : Hongyong Zhang
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The fees in the amount of \$630 (\$450 for the two-month extension of time and \$180 for the information disclosure statement) are being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,


John F. Hayden
Reg. No. 37,640

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Customer No. 26171
Fish & Richardson P.C.
1425 K Street, N.W. - 11th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-3500
Telephone: (202) 783-5070
Facsimile: (202) 783-2331
/adt
40380462.doc